

THE PLAN COMMISSION
MINUTES OF JUNE 22, 2011 – 7:00 P.M.

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Plan Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. A quorum was present. Chairman James Caporusso, Edward Cendejas, William Thorn, Teresa Badillo, Giuliano Petrucci, Jeff Harris (Zoning Administrator) and Lisa Manzo (Secretary). Absent: Patricia Letarte, and Karen Special.
3. Member Thorn made a motion to accept the minutes of April 27, 2011 and May 25, 2011 as presented. Member Petrucci seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried.
4. Old Business: A. Parking Regulations: 1. Adoption of a recommendation to the Village Board on the continued practicality of the “15 Minute Resident Only Parking” restrictions near the Park District Pool Area/Metra Station and the High School. (24 hour restriction vs. 12 hour restriction). 2. Adoption of a recommendation to the Village Board on specific areas where additional parking spaces can be provided near the Park District Pool Area/Metra Station. 3. Adoption of recommendation to the Village Board concerning visitor parking restrictions. (Village of Franklin Park resident vs. non-Village of Franklin Park resident).

Mr. Harris came forward and discussed the subject at hand this evening. He continued that he would like to concentrate on the 15-Minute parking around the pool area. He would like the Plan Commission to think about a relaxation of the 15 minute parking restriction around the pool during the summer months when the pool is open to the public. Mr. Harris recognized Chief Witz from the Police Department being on the panel this evening to offer any suggestions and answer any questions the Commission may have.

Edward Cendejas arrived at 7:04 p.m.

Chief Witz stated that the Police Department receives approximately 50 phone calls per week regarding the 15-Minute Signage. Chief Witz discussed the history of placing this particular signage on those streets. He stated that it stems from the high school. Then it continued to train patrons parking on the streets instead of the Metra parking lot. Chief Witz also mentioned that the signage is a root of numerous neighbor disputes in the area.

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The members discussed the Thompson Steel property that will house parking for the East Leyden students in the near future. They mentioned that it may not ease up the parking congestion very much, as it will have only 320 parking spaces. The current lot houses 280 spaces.

The members asked if there was any information on how many parking passes are issued per year for the high school. Mr. Harris stated that there was no new information regarding that.

Mr. Harris discussed a “relaxation” of the 15-minute parking regulations up to Gage Street on the north side and that there should be a time restriction/weather related hours.

Chief Witz understands the frustration of the residents that there is absolutely no parking on the street and when guests come to visit, they have to call in to the Police Department to let them know that there are guests on the street.

Chief Witz also stated that the Police Department has received several emails asking the American Legion Hall to provide extra parking and that their signs be lifted. He continued that the American Legion Hall does not want to participate in this subject matter whatsoever.

The members discussed that Pacific Avenue is narrow and that people can not park on both sides of the street.

The members discussed the boundaries for lifting the 15-minute parking restriction to Ruby on the west, Rose on the east, Gage on the north and Pacific to the south. It would be seven (7) days a week and the signage must be clear that it is seasonal only.

The members questioned if the Village has contacted the Park District in regard to this problem. Mr. Harris stated that he has discussed this issue with one (1) person from the Park District who does agree that there is a problem with parking. No one was present this evening from the Park District.

The members discussed finances regarding creating diagonal parking spaces. Mr. Harris stated that one can fit more vehicles parked diagonally than parallel.

Mr. Thorn mentioned parking at the Leyden News Agency Lot, and Mr. Harris stated that they could pursue that avenue due to insurance and liability issues.

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The members discussed that the parking verbiage in ordinance number 6-6F-7 have the last line stricken from the ordinance. It designates parking that those residents living on Pacific only park on Pacific, etc. The members have no idea why that line is there.

After extensive discussion among the members it was decided that there shall be a relaxation of the 15-minute parking signage during the pool season seven (7) days a week from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the street and from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on evening and weekends in the Metra parking lot.

Chairman Caporusso stated that the members will have to make more boundaries on the “hot spots” in town with congested parking. He further stated that they should eliminate all other areas that are not “hot”.

Chairman Caporusso opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. George and Sue Rizzo and Mr. Karl Steiner discussed that this 15-minute parking issue has caused a lot of turmoil in the neighborhood. Every time there is a guest, they “call in” the guest to the Police Department and the congestion is a severe problem in these neighborhoods. Mrs. Rizzo stated that residents that have garages, should park in them and in their driveways. She further stated that every time someone calls in to the Police Department to call in a guest, they give her a different rule. Chief Witz was angered by this and stated that anytime a resident calls in a guest for parking, that it is for an unlimited period of time, there is no limit for calling in guests. Chief Witz stated that he is going to investigate this and rectify it immediately.

The public portion was closed at this time.

The members discussed creating additional parking spaces for the apartment buildings along Pacific Avenue. Mr. Harris stated that if the apartment building owners came in to the building and made a request that they would offer to help assist financially in the creation of additional parking with the Village, then that may be addressed.

Mr. Jim Winje spoke at this time and explained the parking situation along Pacific Avenue where he owns property. Mr. Winje stated that the 15-minute parking signs make no sense. He continued that he would personally like to take part in assisting in the creation of additional parking spaces. He also stated that rule that a resident can only park in front of their property addresses is ludicrous.

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The members concur that something has to be done regarding parking congestion in these various parts of the Village.

Mr. Harris thanked all the members of the public for attending this evening to listen and give their valuable input regarding this subject.

5. Old Business: Adoption of recommendation to Village Board to hire an outside consulting firm to conduct a commercial corridor study for Mannheim Road and Grand Avenue

Mr. Harris discussed that they would like to get a Request for Proposal (RFP) to have an outside company to conduct a study on the Mannheim and Grand Avenue area.

Member Thorn made a motion to recommend to the Village Board to hire an outside consulting firm to conduct a study of the Mannheim/Grand Avenue corridor. Member Petrucci seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken. All in favor. The motion carried.

The members discussed moving the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Plan Commission from Wednesday, July 27, 2011 to Tuesday, July 19, 2011 due to Mr. Harris not being present.

Member Badillo made a motion to move the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Plan Commission from Wednesday, July 27, 2011 to Tuesday, July 19, 2011. Member Petrucci seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken. All in favor. The motion carried.

6. Member Badillo made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Plan Commission. It was seconded by Member Petrucci. The motion was carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Manzo
Secretary